

Women in the Military

Overview

- History of contributions of women in the military
- Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948 (WASIA)
- Contemporary issues
- Strategies to effect the full integration of women

Historical Contributions

- Revolutionary War
- Civil War
- W.W.I
- W.W.II

The Women's Armed Integration Act (WASIA)

- Women under 18 couldn't enlist, if less the 21 , required parents consent
- Husbands of military women had to prove dependency
- Enlisted women could not exceed 2% of enlisted strength. Female Officers, excluding nurse, could not exceed 10% of total female enlisted strength
- Officers could not progress beyond O-5 unless appointed Director of Women in their service. Then their attain O-6, however if reassigned, they reverted back to O-5.

The Women's Armed Integration Act (WASIA)

- No women could serve in command positions. Women could hold supervisory positions over women only
- Army had no provision prohibiting combat. The Secretary of the Army could assign as needed

Defense Advisory Committee on Women In The Service (DACOWITS)

- To Advise on all matters pertaining to women in the military
- To interpret to the public the need for and roles of women in the military and to promote public acceptance of the military as a career for women

Public Law 90-130

- Men and women can enlist at 18 without parental consent
- Changed proof of dependency
- Allow women to request waivers to stay in the service. In 1975, DoD allowed pregnant women to remain in the military unless they asked to get out
- Two percent ceiling removed and could be appoint generals

Public Law 90-130

- Women could participate in ROTC programs and military academies
- Women could serve aboard ships
- Women could participate in Aviation
- Women could serve in all but direct combat-related MOSs

Vietnam

- Mostly served as nurses
- 1964, four nurses received Purple Hearts
- Eight women are enshrined on the Vietnam Memorial
- VA did not recognize female veterans suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder until 1982

Post Vietnam

- Oct-78 - Public Law 95-485
- ERA
- Grenada
- Attack on Libya
- Operation Just Cause
- Operation Desert Storm

Contemporary Issues

- Congress eliminated the combat exclusion law in 1993
- Repealed the laws prohibiting women from becoming combat pilots
- On October 1, 1994, the Army opened 32,000 ground jobs to women
- Army's most senior leaders are drawn from branches closed to women
- Kara Hultgreen-Navy Tomcat pilot
- Gender Integrated Training (GIT)
- Medical issues and absences

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